

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00729 241122Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00
/072 W

-----035984 241731Z /43

R 241115Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2546
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
ZE AMCONSUL TRIESTE POUCH
ZEN AMCONSUL TURIN POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PALERMO 0729

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT:
HISTORICAL ENCOUNTERS WITH THE SECOND PARTY

REF: A MILAN 1063, B ROME 13259

1. I WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE APPARENT PRESUMPTION
IN ROME'S 13259 THAT CURRENT ATTITUDES ON NATO, THE US,
ETC. OF LOCAL PCI GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS MIGHT
BE DICTATED AT LEAST AS MUCH BY TACTICAL CONSIDERATION
AND NATIONAL DIRECTIVES AS BY PERSONAL CONVICTION.
MY OWN SUSPICION IS THAT IT WOULD BE AS IMPOSSIBLE FOR
US AS IT PROBABLY IS FOR MOST OF THE INDIVIDUALS
THEMSELVES TO GIVE FINITE SHAPE TO WHAT AND HOW STRONGLY
THEY REALLY FEEL ABOUT EACH AND ALL OF THESE ISSUES.
2. PERHAPS THE MORE IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL CONCERN HERE,
HOWEVER, IS THAT INDIVIDUAL PCI MEMBERS NOW SEEM TO
ESPOUSE PRO-NATO, PRO-US AND OTHER COMFORTING SYMPATHIES
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WITH SUCH ASUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF UNIFORMITY. CER-
TAINLY THIS HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE IN LIMITED CONTACTS
WITH SICILY'S LIMITED NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS (WHOSE
BAGGAGE ALSO INCLUDES SOME VOCAL ANTI-SOVIETISM).
THIS CONTRASTS MARKEDLY WITH THE ATTITUDES AND EXPRESSIONS
HELD BY MANY SOCIALISTS AT THE OUTSET OF THECENTER
LEFT IN THE EARLY SIXTIES WHEN THE PSI WAS GOING THROUGH

THE SAME POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL TRAVAIL THE
COMMUNISTS ARE NOW PRESUMABLY EXPERIENCING. I CAN RECALL FROM
MY OWN MILAN DAYS (1962-66), FOR EXAMPLE, THE SUBSTANTIAL
ANTI-PCI, PRO-US ENTHUSIASM OF BETTINO CRAXI, THEN THE
PSI'S MILAN PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, AND ITS SHARP
CONTRAST WITH THE HOSTILE VIEWS ON NATO, THE US, ETC.
EXPRESSED BY OTHER PSI ELECTED AND PARTY OFFICIALS IN
LOMBARDY AT THAT TIME. SINCE THESE VIEWS WERE
THEN (AS NOW) SO WIDELY DIVERGENT, THE SUSPICION COULD
NOT THEN EVEN BE ENTERTAINED THAT INDIVIDUAL SOCIALISTS'
VIEWS HAD BEEN DICTATED FROM ABOVE OR THAT THEY WERE SOLELY
OPPORTUNISTIC IN THEIR ORIGIN.
COLLINS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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